ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY

12 May 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Assistant, CR

THROUGH: Administrative Staff, CR
Chief, Special Register, CR

STATINTL

FROM: Chief, Biographic Section, R&A Branch,
Special Register, CR

SUBJECT: CODIB Task Team V (Biographics) Symposium,
Held [   ] 22-23 April 1965

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1. Like two-thirds of the people at this meeting I attended as an interested guest, rather than a team member, hence I do not know the background to the decision to hold the symposium, or why it was held where and how it was (other than reasons of congeniality). But I assume the main purpose was to acquaint the team members with other name files of interest other than their own, and the particular problems of some of those who maintained the files. In this it was fairly successful.

2. An agenda which was loosely followed and a list of the attendees is attached. The latter list will point out one of the weaknesses of the symposium, and indeed, of the whole team. The vast majority of the people there were not biographic experts, as I would interpret the term, but computer experts whose interest in personality files was not in their content but how to organize them for EDP storage and retrieval. I do not feel that the fact that OCR has no computer of its own signifies that we are any the less interested in biographic intelligence. Of the remaining people (and this included a majority of the actual team members) most were concerned only with the CE or Security aspects of personality files. Only four of the 42 people at this meeting – [   ] [   ] – knew biographics in the full spectrum for which it is maintained in the DDI, and have familiarity with the many types of consumers and their widely varying needs. Most of the people present had files whose input was from neat forms (i.e. job applications, security clearances, visa requests, etc.) where all name elements were neatly laid out, and such biographic information as the social security number was an integral and constant companion to the name. There was even some comment that perhaps all biographic files be kept in social security

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card order for easy mag tape exchange and relief from the name variant problem. I did not know Brezhnev's or Mao's social security number, so I was not too enthusiastic about this suggestion. Most of the people had no experience with any type of names but Anglo-Saxon/European. Several were surprised to hear, for example, that the family name of the King of Ethiopia was not Selassie. When I mentioned after [   ]introduction to name problems that over half the people in the world do not have the kind of name pattern with which they were acquainted the response was more or less "so what?"

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3. The only part of the meeting devoted to positive intelligence was an evening session on Thursday - a most unfortunate time. [   ]talk was very much circumscribed by the symposium's overall security classification. Since he could not give the real reason for the existence of the NSA C3 files, their shortcomings as positive intelligence were not apparent, and the statistics on Russian name elements which I found very interesting were meaningless to most of the people. [   ]was very clear and open about the biographic problems at DIA Prod Center - his statement re/manual vs machine files should have been more carefully noted by the people there - but he was so constantly interrupted by people who had too much to drink at/after dinner that there was no time at all for [   ]to speak. It had been hoped that he could speak the next day, but again there was no time.

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4. The opening talk by Will Fazar of the Bureau of the Budget was interesting for more reasons than content. As the man who coined the term "PERT" and worked with Admiral Raburn on the Polaris program (and had had lunch with him the day before he gave his talk), I felt his attitude toward biographics rather important. He seemed to feel that a name check was no different than any other computer problem, such as procurement or payroll, that it consisted of "hits" or "misses," and the number of hits could be calculated along with the cost of the program to analyze which were the better programs. Mr. Fazar was humbly open-minded, reminded us of his inexperience in this particular field, and asked for much information from following speakers. But his background is analog. While we all universally replied that such accounting methods would not reflect the true importance of diffierent files, nor the overwhelming number of "maybes," probablys," and possiblys" that we get instead of hits in intelligence, I'm not sure

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he was convinced. The Bureau of the Budget has good reason to be a little skeptical about the community's argument that any cost is justified to save agents or operations, or to discover some otherwise undiscoverable bit of information.

5. As a guest rather than a member I feel I should make few recommendations. All administrative problems were well handled. However, I would like to recommend that something be done to redress the imbalance of interest in a committee so vital to a major OCR interest - not just to the two Registers now handling biographic intelligence, but in much of CHIVE's interest and orientation. The DDI and its multifaceted biographic interests are not represented on Task Team V at all since the BR representative was dropped from the more cumbersome early team in the interest of self-sacrificing (from the CIA viewpoint) efficiency. I think that an articulate and convincing DDI person (preferably from BR) should represent our interests.

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